Nalakuver and Managriva Liberated

From the Krsna Book Chapters 9 and 10
By Radha Damodar dasa

Narrator: Long ago, in the province of Kailasa, the two sons of Kuvera, the treasurer of the demigods, were enjoying themselves in the gardens of Lord Siva. As a rich man's son often becomes addicted to women and wine, so Nalakuvera and Manigriva were also addicted to sense gratification. In the beautiful and fragrant gardens, the demigods drank too much and spent their time listening to the sweet singing of beautiful young girls.

Nalakuvera: Let's go have a look at this water, see if it's warm or cold …

Manigriva: That sounds like a good idea.

Nalakuvera: Just hold the water straight so I can get in!

1st Girl: Tee hee!

Manigriva: I'm trying, but everything is spinning around!

Nalakuvera: Oh, no! I've fallen down in the water!

Manigriva: Hey! What are you doing in the water?

Nalakuvera: This is no time for jokes. Get me out of the water.
Give me your hand.

Manigriva: Okay, okay. Don't yell at me; I'll get you out.
(Manigriva falls down into water, too.)
Oh, no! Well, as long as we're in the water, we might as well have a good time.

Nalakuvera: (calling) Oh girls! Girls! Come in the water, girls!

1st Girl: Tee hee tee hee!
(Both girls enter the water quickly. All four laugh and splash)

2nd Girl: (sings) I love you forever and ever
Let us enjoy forever.
The purpose of life is to have fun after all,
You darling rich young boy!

(They laugh and splash again. Narada Muni: enters)

Narada: Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

1st Girl: Oh, no! It's the great sage Narada Muni!

2nd Girl: And he has seen us sporting like animals! I feel awful!

Nalakuvera: What? Who where what?

1st Girl: I'm so embarrassed! Let us cover ourselves up and leave!

2nd Girl: Yes, hurry!
(They leave.)

Nalakuvera: Hey, where did the girls go?

Manigriva: This is terrible they left us! How can we enjoy without girls?

Nalakuvera: Look at me, I'm all wet! You look like a big, fat frog! Ha!

Manigriva: Ribbet! Ribbet!

Narada: These demigods have lost all spiritual vision of who they are. Due to intoxication, they are acting just like animals and do not even know respect this holy place.
(to demigods) Listen, O demigods, being covered by the mode of
darkness, you have become unable to control your senses but, as you are the sons of pious Kuvera, it is my duty to help you.

Manigriva: Hey, he's going to help us get out of the water!

Narada: You like to stand naked, therefore I curse you to immediately become trees. A tree cannot move and its enjoyments are small. This is a suitable punishment for you.

Manigriva: We will become trees?

Narada: Yes, and you will remain as trees for one hundred years
of the demigods. But, I will allow you to keep your memory so that you will remember why you are being punished.

Manigriva: For one hundred years! How terrible!

Nalakuvera: Yes, it is.

Narada: Actually, this curse is just for your ultimate benediction, for at the end of your one hundred years, you will see the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Krsna, face to face.

Scene Two

Narrator: When the earth was overburdened by unnecessary military forces, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Sri Krsna, advented Himself in Mathura. Because the demoniac king, Kamsa, wanted to kill Krsna, his father transferred Krsna to Vrndavan to be raised by Nanda Maharaj and Yasodamayi. There in Gokula Vrndavan, Krsna revealed His most intimate pastimes with His pure devotees. Devotees enjoyed different rasas with Krsna. Some had parental affection for Him, some had friendship with Him, some had a servitude relationship, and so on. As Krsna grew up, He began to give great pleasure to His parents, as well as to all the residents of Vrndavan. When He would crawl on His hands and knees, the silver bells around His ankles and waist made a fascinating sound. Sometimes Krsna would be frightened by others and would crawl to His mother for protection. Sometimes Krsna would catch the tail of a calf and stand up. The calf, being disturbed, would run here and there and Krsna would be dragged over clay and cow dung. The neighbors and friends of Mother Yasoda enjoyed seeing this fun and they would all laugh very loudly. As Krsna began to walk, other friends of the same age joined the playing of Krsna and His older brother, Balarama. Sometimes the Boys would act very naughty.

Krsna: Come on, let's have some fun!

1st Boy: What shall we do?

Krsna: Come here and I will tell you.
(Krsna whispers to the others.)

1st Boy: That sounds like a good idea!

2nd Boy: Let's go!
(They sneakily steal butter and pantomime eating it and feeding it to the monkeys.)

2nd Boy: MMMMmmmm! Yummy yummy butter!

Krsna: This butter and yogurt are useless!

Balarama: Even the monkeys won't eat it!

Krsna: Let's go and turn the calves loose so that they can drink all the milk from their mothers' milkbags!

2nd Boy: Yes, let's go!
(They leave. A gopi enters.)

Gopi: Oh look, Krsna and Balarama have been playing their tricks again! I am going to complain to Mother Yasoda about her naughty son Krsna!
(She comes before Yasoda.)
(calling) Yasoda! Yasoda!

Yasoda: Yes, how are you today?

Gopi: My dear Yasoda, you must stop your son, Krsna, from acting like this!
(A baby's cry is heard.) Can you hear that? Krsna and His friends have pinched my baby and made him cry!

Yasoda: My Krsna has done that!?

Gopi: Yes, He has. And not only that, but He has let loose the young calves and they have drunk all the milk from the cows!

Yasoda: What a naughty boy!

Gopi: Also, Krsna and Balarama find great pleasure in stealing my butter and yogurt! They manage to steal it from wherever I keep it!

Yasoda: My son has been stealing!?

Gopi: Yes, Bring Krsna and Balarama here and we will get them to admit it right in front of you!

Yasoda: Yes. (calling) Krsna! Krsna and Balarama! Boys, come here immediately!

Krna and Balarama: Yes, Mother.

Gopi: I saw you Boys stealing my butter and yogurt! Why do you do such things?

Krsna: You are charging us with stealing? Do you that there is a scarcity of butter and yogurt in our house? Right, Balarama?

Gopi: I don't know what to do anymore! If I hang the butter pots high, near the ceiling, They just pile crates on top of each other and somehow manage to reach it. And if They can't reach it, They make a hole in the pot! If I hide the butter and yogurt in a dark place, Krsna and Balarama always find it by the glow coming from the jewels and ornaments on Their bodies!

Yasoda: I know what to about that! I will take away all of Krsna's jewels so that He won't be able to see the butter in the darkness.

Gopi: No, no, even that is of no use. I don't know what kind of boys these Two are, but even without jewels, they shine so brightly that They can see everything, even in darkness!

Yasoda: Allright, I will punish Them for being so naughty.

Gopi: Yes, just look at Them! All day long They just plot and plan how They will steal my butter. And now They are just sitting there smiling like nice, quiet, good little boys! Just see Their faces!!
(Gopi leaves.)

Yasoda: Krsna! Balarama! I should punish You Both but I won't, this time! Now, You behave yourselves! Go and play!
(Krsna and Balarama leave.)

Scene Two

Narrator: Krsna is the Reservoir of Pleasure for His parents and the other residents of Vrndavana. The Supreme Personality of Godhead was exhibiting His childhood pastimes because He wanted to show the great philosophers and sages searching after the Absolute Truth how the Supreme Absolute Truth is controlled by the love of pure devotees.
One day, a fruit vendor came before the house of Nanda Maharaj

Vendor: Fruit for sale! Fresh fruit for sale! If anyone wants some fruit,

please come and take them from me! Fruit for sale! Fresh fruit!

Krsna: Oh, she is selling fruits! I have seen how the villagers will take some grains and trade for fruit. I will take her a whole handful (calling) Fruit Vendor! Fruit Vendor! I want some fruits. Here are some grains I brought to trade you for the fruits.

Vendor: (to herself) Just see, this beautiful Boy has tried to bring some grains and trade for some fruit! But, while He was carrying them in His hands almost all of the grains have fallen to the ground! Such a beautiful little Boy! (to Krsna) Allright, Son, please give me the grains that You have and I will give Your value's worth of fruit.

(Krsna places His grain in her basket and she fills His hands and arms with fruit.)

Thank you. Here is some fruit, and some more, and some more, and

Krsna: Thank you so much, Mother Goodbye, I must go now.

(Krsna leaves. She watches Krsna until He is out of sight.)

Vendor: (sigh) Such a beautiful Child!

(Calling as she picks up her basket) Fruit for sale! (to herself) Why? ... What is this!? Where once there were fruits there are now exquisite jewels! How has this happened? Who was that Child? Perhaps, I will never know!

(She continues on, calling) Fruit for sale! If anyone wants fruit, come now and take it from me!

Narrator: We can understand from this that Krsna is the bestower of all benedictions. If someone gives something to the Lord, they are never the loser, but they gain millions of times over. Krsna reciprocates with them not only in this life, but life after life until they are fully absorbed in Him and can enter into His intimate association in the Spiritual World, where all beings are eternal, full of knowledge and bliss.

Scene Three

Narrator: Another day, when Krsna and Balarama were playing with Their friends, all the boys joined Balarama and told Mother Yasoda that Krsna had eaten dirt.

Balarama: Mother Yasoda, Krsna is eating dirt! Krsna is eating dirt!

Yasoda: Where is Krsna? Bring Him to me.
(Soon, Krsna and Balarama and the boys enter.)
Krsna, have You really done this? All Your friends say that it is true.

Krsna: Dear Mother, all of these boys and Balarama are telling lies about Me. I have never eaten dirt.

Yasoda: Why would They be telling lies?

Krsna: Today, while we were playing, Balarama became angry with Me so He joined with all the other boys just to get Me in trouble.

Yasoda: Really?

Krsna: Yes, and now they are telling tales just so that you will become angry and punish Me.

Yasoda: I don't know Who to believe!

Krsna: If you are not sure, and think that They might be telling the truth, you can look inside My mouth and see whether I have eaten dirt or not.

Yasoda: Allright, just open Your mouth and I will see.

Narrator: When Krsna opened His mouth, just like an ordinary boy, Mother Yasoda saw the entire creation within the mouth of Krsna. She say outer space, land, oceans, islands, seas, time, material nature, spiritual nature and all the different forms of life within the creation. She also saw herself taking Krsnato her breast and feeding Him milk. Seeing all this, she became struck with wonder.

Yasoda: This is so confusing! Maybe I have gone crazy and haven't really seen anything at all. Or, maybe I have been influenced by some mystic power I offer my respectful obeisances unto the Supreme Personality of Godhead whose illusory maya is so strong that it makes me think that I am my body and that Nanda Maharaj is my husband and all the cowherd men and women are my subjects and that Krsnais my son. I pray to the Supreme Lord that He may protect me always.

While Mother Yasoda was thinking in this highly philosophical way, Krsna expanded His Yogamaya and covered her with material affection. So, Mother Yasoda, after being bewildered because of seeing the Universal Form within the mouth of her son, Krsna, was able to again

think of Him as her son and said:

Yasoda: All right, never mind whether You have eaten dirt or not. My son, please have some milk to drink.

Scene Four

Narrator: Once, Krsna and Balarama were playing with Their friends near the bank of the Yamuna and because they were already late for lunch, Mother Rohini, Balarama's mother, came to call the boys back home.

Rohini: Krsna and Balarama, please come home now. You are late for lunch.

Krsna: Mother Rohini, We will certainly come home in a little while. First, We must finish our game.

Balarama: Yes, Mother, We will return in a few moments.

Rohini: Alright, but be back soon!

Krsna: Yes, yes.

Balarama: Certainly, certainly.

Krsna: Come on, let's go back and play, Balarama!

Narrator: When Mother Rohini was unable to bring them back, she sent Mother Yasoda to try again.

Yasoda: Krsna! Balarama! Please come home. You are already late for lunch. O Lotus-eyed Ones, You have played enough and You must be very hungry, thirsty and tired.

Krsna and Balarama: But, we want to play!

Yasoda: Your father, Nanda Maharaj is waiting for You. He won't eat until You return. Please come back so that he can eat.

Krsna: Oh, Father is waiting for Us?

Balarama: We must immediately go back.

Krsna: Yes, let's hurry.

Yasoda: Good Boys! So, I will see You back at the house.

1st Boy: What is this? How can You leave in the middle of our game?

2nd Boy: If You want to leave now, that is alright. We just won't ever let You play with us again.

Krsna: But, we must go home now.

2nd Boy: Well, Krsna, that's up to You.

1st Boy: But, if You leave now, You will ruin everything and we will never play with You again.

Balarama: What should we do, Krsna?

Krsna: What can we do?
(They start playing again.)

Yasoda: My dear Krsna, do You think that You are a street urchin without a home? You have become dirty from playing. Go home and bathe.

Krsna: Yes, Mother, We will go home, now.

Yasoda: You boys shouldn't force Krsna to stay and play with you. He must clean up and decorate Himself with nice jewels and beautiful cloth for today is His birthday. Krsna and Balarama, go home now. Bathe and dress Yourselves and later You may play some more with Your friends.

Krsna and Balarama: Yes, Mother.

Yasoda: Immediately!!

Narrator: In this way, Mother Yasoda controlled Krsna and Balarama, Who are worshipable by the greatest of demigods and Who are the Supreme Controllers. She was simply thinking of Them as small children.

Scene Five

Narrator: One morning, seeing that her maidservant was busy, Mother Yasoda personally took charge of churning the butter. While she churned, she sang the glories of her Son, Krsna, and enjoyed thinking of Him.

Krsna: Mother, Mother, I am hungry! Please stop your work and let Me drink some milk from your breast. You can churn butter later.

Yasoda: Yes, of course.
(She takes Krsna upon her lap. Sound of milk boiling over. She quickly puts Krsna down and leaves.) OH! The milk on top of the stove has boiled over! Oh, dear! What a mess!

Krsna: No, no, you should feed Me, first! (to Himself) This makes Me very angry! I will do something naughty!
(Krsna takes a stone and breaks the butter churn. With false tears in His eyes, He goes off to eat the butter in a solitary place. Mother Yasoda returns.)

Yasoda: Oh, what is this? And Krsna is not here? This Krsna is very clever, after breaking the pot He has left, fearing that I will punish Him. I will find Him, though Where is He?
(Searching, she finds Krsnaon the far side of stage.) Aha, there He is! He is on top of the grinding mortar and He is feeding butter to the monkeys! I will silently sneak up on Him and catch Him before
(She picks up a stick and tiptoes nearer.)
Got You! (to herself) Krsna looks so frightened! I will throw away my stick! But, it is my duty to punish Him I know the correct punishment! (to Krsna) Wait here. Don't move!
(She goes and bring back ropes.) I'm going to tie You to this grinding mortar. (to herself) That's odd, the rope is too short I'll just add another rope But, it is still too inches too short! What is going on? I feel tired and confused!

Narrator: When Krsna, Who is the unlimited Supreme Personality of Godhead, saw His mother's great love, He allowed Himself to be bound by her.

Yasoda: There, finally! You stay right there. I'm going to do the rest of my housework and then I will untie You.(She leaves.)

Krsna: My Mother has punished me for no reason. First, she left Me without feeding Me enough milk and then she became angry when I fed the

utter to the monkeys. I was simply performing some charity. I have done nothing wrong at all and yet I am being punished! I must do something even more naughty! I will pull this grinding mortar between the two arjuna trees and I will them down. In this way, I will fulfill the words of My great devotee, Narada Muni.

(Krsna does this. Crashing sounds. Nalakuvera and Manigriva appear and they offer obeisances and stand with folded hands.)

Nalakuvera: My dear Lord Krsna, You are the Supreme Personality of Godhead and the Master of All Mystic Powers. You are the all-pervading Lord and the Controller of everything.

Manigriva: You have appeared in Your original form and for You there is no difference between Your self and Your body. By the grace of Narada Muni and our father Kuvera, we have been able to see You personally.

Nalakuvera: We pray that we will be able to serve You with all the limbs of our bodies, as well as glorify You with our tongues and hear of Your glories with our ears.

Krsna: The great sage Narada Muni has saved You from gliding down to hell. You are very lucky that you have met such a great saint. Because you have developed ecstatic love for Me, this will be your last birth within the material world. Now, you may return to your father's home in the heavenly planets. Go there and remain in the mood of devotional service, ands you will be liberated within this very life.

Nanda: (rushing in) We heard a great, thundering sound! What happened? Why have these two giant trees fallen to the ground!?

Man: What could have caused these two trees to fall like this?

Nanda: It must have been due to the great mystic powers of some demon!!

Boy: I saw the whole calamity, Maharaj. I was playing right over there. Do you want me to tell you what happened?

Nanda: Yes, tell us immediately, child!

Boy: Well, first Mother Yasoda tied Krsna to that big mortar, then Krsna

began pulling the mortar towards the trees

Nanda: Then what happened?

Boy: The mortar became stuck between the two arjuna trees and Krsna pulled and pulled and the trees toppled down!

Nanda: What!? Do you mean to tell me that my little Krsna pulled those giant trees down!?

Boy: Yes, and then two shining demigods came from within the trees and offered their obeisances to Krsna! After speaking with Krsna, they walked around Him three times and then disappeared!!

Nanda: O Sri Visnu, how can this be?!

Man: I don't believe it! The child must be telling tall tales. But, maybe it is true Nanda. Your Child, Krsna, is different from all the other children He just may have done it!

Nanda: Let me untie You now, Krsna. I am happy as long as You are safe! (Bhajan)